

## 2017 MBC ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

### 1st Session | Tuesday Morning | October 31, 2017

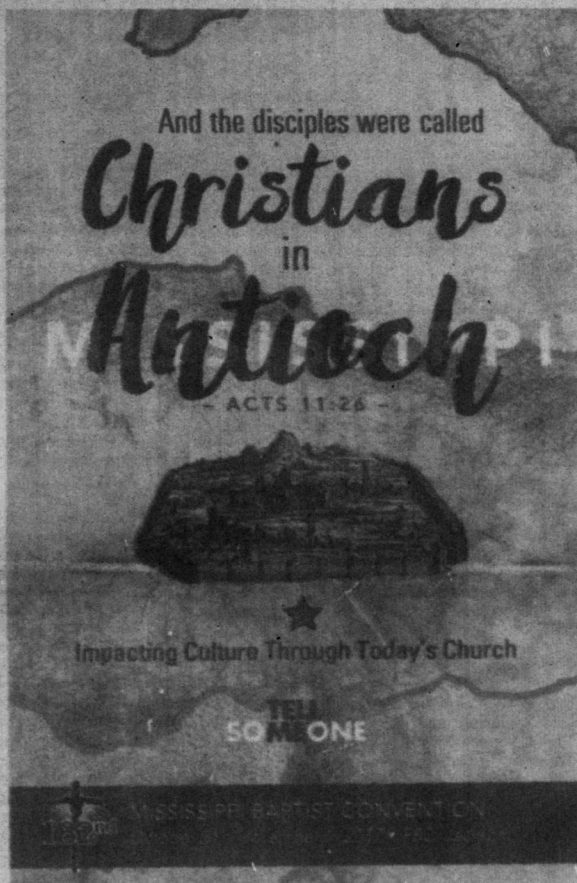
8:30	Call to Order	Doug Broome
	Invocation	Josh Braddy
	Worship through Music	Derrick Burt
	Scripture Reading	Wade Stevens
	Testimony	Nick King
9:00	Organization of the Convention	Doug Broome
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	
	Committee on Order of Business Report	Barry Corbett
	Announcement of Credentials and Tellers Committees	Doug Broome
	Welcome	L. Lavon Gray
9:15	Worship through Music	Praise Team
		First Baptist Church, Natchez
9:20	Report of Committee on Committees	Mark Vincent
9:25	Bible Treasures	Michael Catt
9:50	Presentations of Resolutions	
9:55	Worship through Music	Derrick Burt
10:00	Business Session: Election of the President	Doug Broome
10:10	Greetings from SBC Executive Committee	C. Ashley Clayton
10:20	Convention Board Report	Greg Warnock
10:30	Choral Praise	Praise Team
		First Baptist Church, Natchez
10:35	Christian Action Commission Report	Kenny Digby
10:50	Concert of Praise	Praise Team
		First Baptist Church, Natchez
11:00	President's Address	Doug Broome
11:35	Benediction	Carolyn Ridley

### 2nd Session | Tuesday Afternoon | October 31, 2017

1:30	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
1:45	Call to Order	John Pace
	Invocation	Matt Olson
	Congregational Praise	Slater Murphy
	Hospital Merger Report	Jason Little and Chris Anderson
	Scripture Reading	Dustie Dunn
	Testimony	Gilroy Chow
2:10	Bible Treasures	Michael Catt
2:35	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
2:50	Business Session	Doug Broome
	Presentation of 2018 Budget	Bill Hurt
	Results of Election of President	
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:10	Music Feature	Mississippi Singing Churchwomen
3:15	Business Session	Doug Broome
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:30	Church Planting Report	Johnny Ervin
3:40	Congregational Praise	Slater Murphy
3:45	Missions Mobilization	Mike Ray
3:55	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchwomen
4:05	Convention Sermon	Ronald Meeks
4:40	Benediction	Scott Thomas, II

### 3rd Session | Tuesday Evening | October 31, 2017

6:30	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
6:35	Call to Order	Doug Broome
	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
	Invocation	Dawson Zhang
	Congregational Praise and Worship	Slater Murphy
	Scripture Reading	Steve Wilson and Jose Freyre
	Testimony	Clint Walker
7:00	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
7:10	Congregational Praise and Worship	Slater Murphy
7:15	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
7:25	Message	Jim Futral
8:00	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
8:05	Benediction	Alain Kabore



### 4th Session | Wednesday Morning | November 1, 2017

8:30	Call to Order	Dan Howard
	Invocation	Bryant Barnes
	Worship	Reflections Choir, First Church, Jackson and Heritage Choir, Brandon Church, Brandon
	Scripture Reading	Jon Martin
	Testimony	Tommy King and Students
		William Carey University, Hattiesburg
8:55	Memorial Service	Bruce Cappelman
9:05	Mississippi Baptist Foundation Report	Daniel Hall
9:15	Introduction of College Presidents	Doug Broome
9:20	Mississippi College Report	Lee Royce
9:30	Worship	Reflections Choir, First Church, Jackson and Heritage Choir, Brandon Church, Brandon
9:35	Bible Treasures	Michael Catt
10:00	Recognition of Bivocational Pastor of the Year	Michael Lee
10:10	Business Session	Doug Broome
	Adoption of 2018 Budget	Bill Hurt
	Committee on Nominations Report	Tommy Williamson
	Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report	Jimmy Porter
	Resolutions Committee Report	Shawn Parker
	Miscellaneous Business	Doug Broome
10:25	Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission Report	Anthony Kay
10:30	Baptist Children's Village Report	Sean Milner
10:40	Music Feature	Reflections Choir, First Church, Jackson and Heritage Choir, Brandon Church, Brandon
10:50	Message	Ronnie Floyd
11:30	Closing Remarks	Doug Broome
11:35	Benediction	Ladell Blanton

### Messenger cards

Messenger cards for the 182nd Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 31 - November 1, 2017, were mailed directly to the churches this week. Each church received the number of cards they are eligible for according to the guidelines of the Constitution. The Mississippi Baptist Convention's constitution states:

Each church in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and having contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program during the preceding convention year shall be entitled to two messengers for the first one hundred members of its membership or fraction thereof. One additional messenger from each church shall be allowed for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers.

**Membership information is based on the 2016 Annual-Church Profile. If you have questions, please call Executive Administration at 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 201 or 601-292-3201.**

REGIONAL OFFICE  
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901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620



## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### How to lose a state

**P**ray for the people of California. Like Mississippi, there's a world of people there who don't know Jesus and lots of good Baptists who understand the Great Commission and are dedicated to winning as many of these lost souls to Jesus as they possibly can. That said, California is a political mess right now.

American politics (and always has been) one of the devil's favorite playgrounds because of the abundance of mischief available for the father of confusion to use to his advantage. He will settle for nothing less than the ruin of as many lives as he can muster, and to accomplish that goal, he has hijacked what should one of the noblest endeavors of this country: God-ordained self-governance.

Not to pick on California — there are assuredly other states, including Mississippi, with major political problems — but California seems to be in a real tailspin right now. Democrat Governor Jerry Brown is well-known for his eccentricities. The 120-member California State Legislature, where Democrats presently hold super majorities in both chambers, isn't much better. Many office holders down the line, regardless of party affiliation, seem to have picked up on the craziness.

How crazy? In California, kindergarteners are allowed to choose their gender despite how they were born. Grown men are permitted to parade around nude in locker rooms where little girls are changing and showering, as long as the men declare themselves to be transgender females.

In schools from first grade through high school, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) history is taught alongside state and national history. Pro-life pregnancy centers in California are compelled by state law to disclose that abortions are available, where abortions are available, and that abortion is an acceptable alternative to carrying a child to birth.

Just last week, the governor signed legislation that could send a California citizen to jail for using the wrong gender pronoun. Yes, you can find yourself cooling your heels in the county lockup for misuse of words such as him, her, he, she, and a host of others.

If someone is caught "willfully and repeatedly" not using the

chosen male/female name and preferred set of pronouns for a transgender person, the perp can be punished with a \$1,000 fine and imprisonment for up to a year.

The politically-hyper Brown also signed a bill last week that greatly reduces the penalties for knowingly exposing a sex partner to the deadly, AIDS-producing HIV infection — virtually assuring that the AIDS epidemic rate will explode in the state as HIV-positive predators are able to infect more partners by keeping quiet about their fatal disease.

Rather than such predators facing felony charges and years of imprisonment for their crime, they will now be charged with a simple misdemeanor.

Joel Anderson, a Republican state senator, told the Los Angeles Times newspaper, "I'm of the mind that if you purposefully inflict another with a disease that alters their lifestyle the rest of their life, puts them on a regimen of medications to maintain any kind of normalcy, it should be a felony." Sorry, Joel. Not in your state.

Again, none of the information contained herein is meant to demean or ridicule California and Californians. As mentioned previously, there are many good California Christians populating the state. There are many decent non-Christians living there, too.

The purpose of the observation noted in this space is to serve as a cautionary study on what can happen when the good citizens of a state — or of the entire country — fail to stay involved in the political process and don't engage the politicians who are elected to represent and serve us. When that happens, Satan is able to get a foothold and lead the state or country into the political debacle that California is currently undergoing. Remember the evil one's goal.

No Christian in our state should exempt himself/herself from the political process. More to the point, no Mississippi Baptist should self-exempt oneself from the political process of our state. It doesn't matter how coarse or distasteful we find the process. It's necessary for us to stay involved.

Pray about what God would have you do; this is too important to skip prayer. Listen intently for God's answer, and then get to work. If we don't, we'll get the governance we deserve.

## A Las Vegas Lesson

**I** have just surrendered to a night of tossing and turning, my mind replaying the scenes and interviews I had witnessed the previous day on various news outlets covering the senseless tragedy at a country music festival in Las Vegas. My burden this night was not so much struggling with the question of why things like this occur, though like many Christians I do think on this question in times like these.

This night my burden is simply over the loss of at least 58 human lives, the suffering that nearly 500 others are enduring personally, and the thousands of family and friends of those affected. I have witnessed countless others give testimony to the grief they themselves have over the murder of children [through abortion] and certainly felt grief and sorrow. For me, though, this night was unlike any other.

As Christians, and especially as Southern Baptists, we regularly affirm the value of human life. We set aside one Sunday each year to do so and, in 2015, we passed a resolution on the issue in our annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

As evident in the wake of recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida, we have churches that consistently aid in disaster relief. We serve in a variety of ways to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and serve our communities in ministry projects.

An entity in our convention, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, aids churches in promoting the sanctity of human life to governmental officials in policy and legislation. We have professors in our seminaries who often produce sound biblical arguments on the importance of human life.

Still, in light of recent events, we must strengthen our resolve. The church today cannot overemphasize the value of human life. Though we face a variety of issues in our culture today, it is this one that demands our constant attention.

Further, this commonly-held belief relates to many other issues we are facing regarding sexuality, race, bioethics, immigration, human suffering, political agendas, the threat of nuclear war, and even questions about the long-term effects of certain forms of athletic competition.



## Guest opinion

with Steven L. James

I do not claim to have all the answers to how we might do more as Christians and as churches, but I am convinced that our mission, our teaching, and our ministries must manifest both a clear articulation and a visible representation of our commitment that human beings, who alone are created in the image of and show forth the attributes of the true God, have immeasurable worth to that same God and to His church.

Foundational to this is the unwavering commitment that the same God who created humans in His image has sent His only Son — who Himself is the image of the invisible God, the exact representation of His nature — to be sin for us.

It is in the Gospel that we truly understand the inexplicable value of human life to God. Christ came so that man might have life and that abundantly. He came to gain victory over death. Therefore, as followers of Christ who possess assurance of these truths, we must grow to value life in everything we say, think, and do as we carry the message to a world that feels the sting of death — both physical and spiritual.

We take this Gospel to every human being, knowing that whosoever will can receive the gift of everlasting life. Ultimately, this investment in the lives of others grows in direct relation to the value we place on human life itself.

James is assistant vice president for academic administration at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He also serves as assistant professor of systematic theology at L.R. Scarborough College at Southwestern Seminary. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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## BAPTISTS

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# Multisite model may be moving into new era

**FLOWER MOUND, Texas (BP)** — The decision of a Dallas mega-church to transition its six campuses into autonomous churches illustrates what some see as a trend in the multisite model.

Matt Chandler, pastor of the Dallas-area Village Church in Flower Mound, announced Sept. 24 that the church's five remaining campuses will all become autonomous churches by 2022 to maximize the "capacity to contextually reach the city of Dallas with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The 11,400-attendee Southern Baptist church previously transitioned another campus to an independent congregation in 2015, Christianity Today (CT) reported.

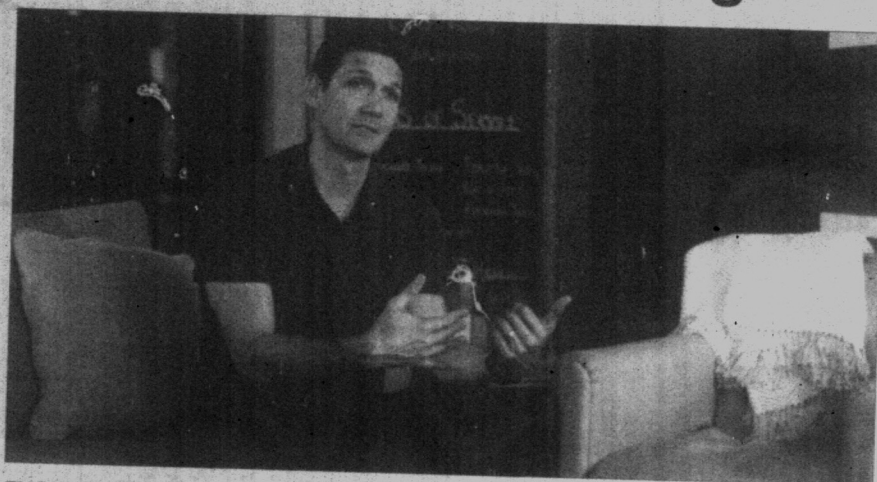
"We're all a bit anxious right now... because [the church's current ministry model] really is beautiful, and God has done some stunning and spectacular things," Chandler, president of the Acts 29 church planting network, said in a video. "We're just compelled that there are better days ahead."

In addition to congregational autonomy, the transition will entail moving to onsite preaching all the time at former satellite campuses rather than video messages by Chandler at the rate of 38-40 Sundays per year. The transition is driven, according to CT, by The Village Church's commitment to "local ministry and church planting."

Over the past year, Nashville-area Long Hollow Church in Hendersonville has transitioned three of its four satellite campuses to autonomous churches. Pastor Robby Gallaty cited a desire to "develop and deploy" localized pastors as a motivation for the transition.

Previously the sermon was delivered at satellite campuses by Gallaty via video while other elements of the service were conducted onsite.

The "discipleship model" at Long Hollow "is [to] develop and deploy people to be disciples who make disciples," Gal-



**EVOLVING MODEL** — Pastor Matt Chandler announced that the Dallas-area Village Church will transition its five remaining satellite campuses to autonomous churches by 2022, in what is being seen as forward movement in the multisite church model utilized by a number of the larger churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo)

laty told Baptist Press (BP). "I felt like we were replicating every position but the senior pastor, the preaching pastor, at the church," and therefore not fully executing the discipleship strategy.

Each campus pastor needed the freedom to lead through his preaching and cast a vision for contextualized local ministry, Gallaty said.

Long Hollow Church still has one satellite campus 15 minutes from its main campus, Gallaty said, "and ultimately I'm going to rotate back and forth between the campuses and preach live."

In Kansas City, Mo., Lenexa Church announced plans in August to transition three campuses to autonomous churches. Pastor Chad McDonald told the congregation in a sermon, "We're at a fork in the road," in which the church can hold and control the campuses, or "release them and unleash them for the glory of God."

Lenexa's campuses were birthed from a desire to help

"I believe that this method of bringing churches in and unleashing them back out is one of the best methods for church planting and revitalization, and I pray it grows in popularity and pervasiveness in our denomination."

**Chad McDonald**  
Lenexa Church pastor

struggling churches revitalize McDonald said. Now that three campuses which began as partnerships with declining congregations are able to sustain themselves financially and in terms of leadership, it makes sense to commission them as independent churches, he pointed out.

A fourth campus will become a church plant with continuing financial and leadership help

from Lenexa, said McDonald, who is conducting a doctor of ministry research project at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City on the multisite model as a means of church revitalization and church planting.

McDonald told Baptist Press that he hopes unleashing thriving satellite campuses as autonomous churches will become a trend.

"Certainly, what The Village Church and Matt Chandler are doing will go a long way in driving this as a trend, and I praise God for their faithfulness and example," McDonald said via email.

"I believe that this method of bringing churches in and unleashing them back out is one of the best methods for church planting and revitalization, and I pray it grows in popularity and pervasiveness in our denomination."

Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research in Nashville and author of a 2009 book on multisite churches, said

while there have been several examples of multisite churches making campuses independent churches..., "overall, we do not see this as a trend."

The number of multisite churches in America is not declining, he said. "Many multisite churches start campuses and help plant churches, so it is not an either/or decision."

Rick Wheeler, lead missionary strategist for Jacksonville (Fl.) Association, told BP he has advised about half a dozen churches considering the multisite model.

Among them was Shiloh Metropolitan Church, a predominantly African American congregation pastored by Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference President H.B. Charles. The church adopted a struggling, predominantly white church as a satellite campus in 2015.

"Multisite is going to be one of many church multiplication strategies that churches are going to continue to use to extend their reach in a community or across a region," Wheeler said.

The multisite model is "not a good idea" when "you're just trying to grow," said Wheeler, a member of the SBC Executive Committee. "You have to have a sense of calling to a particular community, a particular people group that you're trying to reach."

"All of the churches I know that have gone multisite successfully made a considerable effort to understand from a missionary standpoint the people that they were trying to reach in this new community where they were entering."

Interest in the multisite model remains high, Wheeler said, noting representatives of about 20 churches in the Jacksonville Association attended a luncheon on the topic earlier this year.

The multisite model, Wheeler said, "is something that's not going to go away."

## Trump administration announces new contraceptives rules

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — The Trump administration issued new rules Oct. 6 that protect objectors to the abortion/contraception mandate instituted under former U.S. President Barack Obama that required businesses and institutions to provide employees with contraceptives including drugs that can act to instigate an abortion.

One rule exempts entities from the mandate based on their religious beliefs, while the other protects organizations and small businesses on the basis of a moral conviction apart from a specific religious

belief, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The win for objectors comes after a six-year battle against an HHS mandate under Obama, a Democrat, that requires employers to provide their workers with coverage for contraceptives, including those with chemical mechanisms that can potentially induce abortions.

The 2011 rule, which helped implement the controversial Obamacare law enacted the previous year, resulted in legal challenges from more than 90

religious nonprofits including GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas and four Baptist universities.

Southern Baptist and other religious freedom advocates praised the new rules.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, expressed his gratitude and described the action as "a crucial achievement in the preservation of religious liberty."

Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville, said in

a written statement for Baptist Press (BP) he continues to be grateful to the president "for his stance regarding religious liberty. For a country which treasures freedom of speech and freedom of conscience, it is good to finally have a president who will actually stand up for these principles and do more than give lip service."

GuideStone welcomed the new rules while acknowledging it awaits a final, positive judgment in court that hopefully will be supported by the government.

GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a written re-

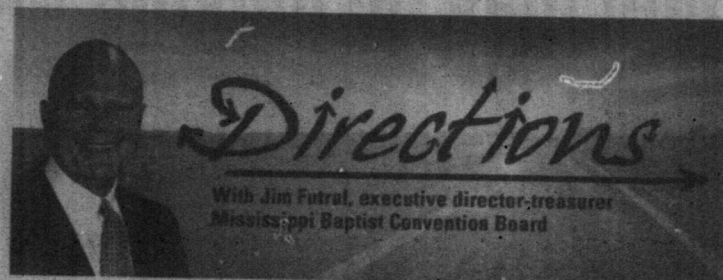
lease, "We are grateful to God, first and foremost, for this outcome. This has been a matter of continued prayer as we petitioned the throne of grace and the seat of government for redress of our grievances. Today is indeed a good day as we give thanks for the outcome we believe honors the Lord."

Messengers to the 2012 SBC meeting adopted a resolution calling for an exemption from the mandate for "all religious organizations and people of faith... who declare a religious objection to such coverage."

Recently I was talking to a good friend of mine and as we visited over the phone, we finally got around to talking about the big ball game that was coming up the next weekend. Both of us were interested in it, but we began to talk about how late the game was going to be on television. Late night games for most preachers and pastors on a Saturday night is not a good thing. My friend commented that he probably wouldn't be able to see the first part of it. I asked why not. "Well," he said, "I'll have to wait a little later. I can see the end of the game. At 10:30 each night, I get access to the remote."

I said, "Do what?" He said, "At about 10:30 p.m. my wife always goes to bed." At that point, he explained, he gets access to the remote. Of course, he was talking about the television channel changer. In most homes, whether there are two or ten and sometimes if there is only one, there are two questions that are repeatedly faced. The first one is, "Where is the remote?" That can happen even if you live all alone and nobody but you has been in your house for the last six months. The other question is "Who is going to hold (that is, control) the remote?"

I personally have never known a married couple to get a divorce over the remote, but I have known a number of people that may have been headed in that direction until they came to their senses and realized they were simply arguing about changing a picture on a television. It's amazing how that little remote brings about such conflict and confusion in some



## Access to the Remote

families. For my friend, he was at peace with her and himself in having the remote all to himself during the fourth quarter of the game and being able to decide whether he wants to watch the rest of it or change the channel. Life is good.

What many of us have never understood is that there is a remote control — a change agent — at work in each of our lives. To be Lord of our lives, Jesus wants access to your remote control. Listen to Jesus as He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24). On occasion Jesus looked at the group of people who were there before Him and He said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46)? In other words, why would you say I can control your life and change your wrong direction into the right

direction, and then not give Me that control? Why would you pretend I am Lord when you won't let Me do what I need to do in your life?

To be honest, I think most of us from time to time come to a serious spiritual encounter with the Lord where we want Him to be Lord and we will give Him access — total access — to the changed part of our lives until it comes to some point that we want to take it back. There are other times when we may deal with giving Jesus access to our remote on a partial basis, or maybe certain compartments of our lives, while we hold on to the right not to allow Him into other compartments or change some part with which we particularly don't want Him interfering. We may think that's a way we can operate but the old, powerful cliché statement is true: If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

When you look at that verse where Jesus spoke to us and said, "You must deny yourself," I truly believe most of us have certain areas of our lives where we devotedly, diligently desire to deny ourselves while on the other hand, there may be places and times and desires with which we struggle. Then there is the big portion that says, "Take up your cross and follow me." I have caught myself at times interpreting that to think that I am the one who is in charge. You tell me where we're going, and I'll decide if we're going to go down that path.

Jesus does not deal with us on that plane because when He called us, it was to a faith relationship knowing that He who knows all and loves above all will lead us in the right direction. You and I don't have to question Him, and we don't have to demand that He tell us all of the ins and outs, twists and turns, of the path down which He may lead us. He says to give Him access to the remote and follow Him whether it changes from hot to cold, from this direction to that, up on the hill or down in the valley.

Maybe there are areas of your life where you have passionately held on to the control. Maybe it has to do with your family or your job or your temper or your stewardship or your service or some addiction or some conflict. Regardless of what it is, let the Lord have access to your remote control and you will find every time that He will lead you in the right way and into green pastures.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

### Hotel/Motel Rates for Convention

Effective October 29-November 1, 2017

Note: Cutoff date for the rates listed is October 15, 2017. Rates will go up after this date.

When you ask for reservations be sure to tell them you are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

**Cabot Lodge-Millsaps** 601-948-8650  
2375 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39202  
\$94.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Free Hot Breakfast

**Cabot Lodge-Ridgeland** 601-957-0757  
120 Dyess Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157  
\$94.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Free Hot Breakfast

**Country Inn & Suites** 601-420-2244  
3051 White Blvd., Pearl, MS 39208  
\$79.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Free Hot Breakfast

**Drury Inn & Suites** 601-956-6100  
610 East County Line Road, Ridgeland, MS 39157  
Please refer to Group #2314895  
\$94.99/\$99.99 Queens/King per night + tax  
Free Hot Breakfast

**Hilton Garden Inn** 601-487-0800  
118 Laurel Park Cove, Flowood, MS 39232  
\$119.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Breakfast - Varied price from menu

**Holiday Inn** 601-939-5238  
110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl, MS 39208  
\$119.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Breakfast - Varied price from menu

**Old Capital Inn** 601-359-9000  
226 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39201  
\$135.00 Single/Double per night + tax  
Free Hot Breakfast

## BIBL I O C I P H E R

UIK LPSF DPSOO ZF WKIUZF S GSA, ZU

PB DPSOO VSZA FPB LPIOB LIKOT, SAT

OIDB PZD ILA DIMO?

GSKC BZVPF: FPZKFN-DZJ

Clue:  $K = R$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 12:48

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

October 12, 2017

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

## Christian Action COMMISSION

### REGION 2 BANQUET

Thursday, November 9

Ray Dining Room  
Blue Mountain College

6:00 p.m.

Jim Futral

Speaker

Slater Murphy

Music

RSVP by November 2

### REGION 1 BANQUET

Thursday, November 16

First Baptist Church

Grenada, MS

6:00 p.m.

Jim Futral

Speaker

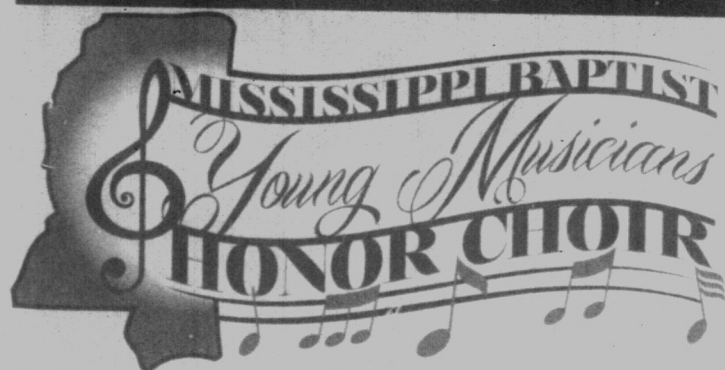
Slater Murphy

Music

RSVP by November 9

Kenny Digby, Executive Director-Treasurer  
Make reservations - call 601-292-3329

## Church Music



### SAVE THE DATE: April 21-22, 2018

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir auditions are continuing through November. These video auditions may be submitted by: e-mail, snail mail, Dropbox or text.

DEADLINE: November 15, 2017

Inquiries may be directed to Wyndy South at 601-292-3272 or [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org)

## Pastor/Leadership Development

### PASTOR DATE NIGHT



Wayne & Terri Van Horn  
Mississippi College  
Clinton, MS



Brian & Candi Crawford  
City Light Church  
Vicksburg, MS



Mark & Janet Dance  
Lifeway Christian Resources  
Nashville, TN

November 6

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Temple Baptist Church  
5220 Old Hwy 11  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Dinner, Child Care, and Gifts!  
FREE, but you must register: <http://lfwy.co/2v7Bdyf>  
Questions - contact Vesta Clary at 601-292-3305

## PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### MBCB BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRIES MEETING

Hosted by Michael Lee  
Director of Pastor/Leadership Development

Monday, October 30, 2017  
Baptist Building, Sky Room, 4th Floor  
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Please note: this meeting is open to anyone who is interested in bivocational ministries in the state. No registration required.

For more information, contact Vesta Clary at 601-292-3305 or [vclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vclary@mbcb.org)



- Entries in the Awards Competition must have been produced or aired between January 1, 2017 - January 1, 2018
- Award Entry Deadline is January 19, 2018
- Entry form and registration will be online soon

Contact Communication Services  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 378 or 292-3378  
or e-mail lrichardson@mbcb.org

## MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE

REG. JACKSON | 5th FLOOR

# Joy in the Journey

Register today at  
[TINYURL.COM/MWIVES2017](http://TINYURL.COM/MWIVES2017)

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department at 601-292-3305  
or [vcclary@mbcb.org](mailto:vcclary@mbcb.org)

## "I AM HERE, LORD!"

2018 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE  
Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon  
January 28-29, 2018



For more information about the event, please contact the  
Evangelism Department at 601-292-3278 or [lburris@mbcb.org](mailto:lburris@mbcb.org)



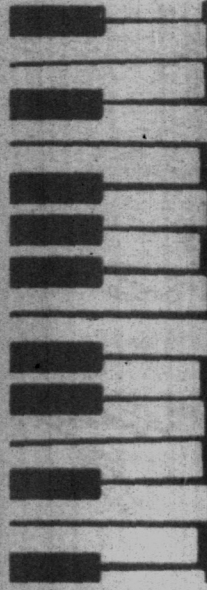
2017 Youth Evangelism Challenge

## SHARING JESUS!

December 27-28 Mississippi College

Register the Evangelism Department at 601-292-3278 or [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org) for more info.





A MINISTRY OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

**JANUARY 25**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

- AREA 2 ..... FBC, Tupelo
- AREA 2 ..... FBC, Starkville
- AREA 3 ..... FBC, Jackson
- AREA 4 ..... Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian
- AREA 5 ..... Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
- AREA 5 ..... FBC, Summit
- AREA 5 ..... FBC, Pascagoula
- AREA 5 ..... FBC, Laurel

**JANUARY 26**  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

- AREA 1 ..... FBC, Senatobia

**JANUARY 27**  
9:30 AM - NOON

- AREA 1 ..... Emmanuel BC, Grenada
- AREA 1 ..... North Greenwood BC, Greenwood

For more info, contact Wyndy South at  
601-292-3272 or [wsouth@mbcb.org](mailto:wsouth@mbcb.org)

WOMAN'S  
MISSIONARY UNION

## ARISE SHINE



WHEN WE RISE UP  
HE SHINES THROUGH

**BAPTIST WOMEN'S  
WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2017**

[http://www.bwawd.org/  
day-of-prayer](http://www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer)



2018 will mark the 75th anniversary of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Please contact us if we may help you frame your legacy through a will, endowment, or charitable trust.

601.292.3210 | 800.748.1651

[foundation@mbcb.org](mailto:foundation@mbcb.org) | [www.ms baptist foundation.org](http://www.ms baptist foundation.org)



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**2018**

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Contact the Cooperative Program/  
Stewardship Department  
[lleavell@mbcb.org](mailto:lleavell@mbcb.org) or 601-292-3347

Pray this day for...

October 13 - October 26, 2017

*"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*  
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community/home outreach encounter.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Biedsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burns**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.



Miss Ella Epps  
12/02/09  
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany  
American Peoples Group



To Be Sent November 20, 2017, by the WMU Office

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!  
NOTE: Church purchases tags and a package of cards together cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.  
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MRCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.  
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update of note of appreciation.



## ACTS 1:8 BANQUET

WMU Annual Meeting participants are invited to attend the Acts 1:8 Banquet at 4:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West, FBC, Jackson. Attendance is free but you must register to attend. Please call or e-mail Beverly Bridges at 601-292-3231 or bbridges@mbcb.org to RSVP by Monday, October 16, 2017. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

# MISSISSIPPI WMU ANNUAL MEETING

First Baptist Church, Jackson

October 30, 2017

12:00-4:30 p.m. - Chapel

Guest Speaker: Sandy Wisdom-Martin

Worship Leader: Teresa Harmening

Special Guests: IMB Representatives

Reception Honoring Janet Green  
for four years of outstanding service  
as our president  
2:00 p.m. - Chapel Parlor

# HOUSE TOPS



# No MBDR mobilization for Nate; Texas still active

**GULFPORT, Ms. (BP and local reports)** — Hurricane Nate made landfall in the Gulfport/Biloxi area on the night of October 8 as a Category One storm. Flooding was widespread but the storm weakened to a tropical depression as it moved through the northeast U.S.

Assessments across south Mississippi have been completed and no additional response is needed at this time, said Don Gann, Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) coordinator and director of men's ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

With MBDR involvement in Florida (Hurricane Irma) closed out, MBDR will continue to concentrate volunteers in the Orange, Texas, area (Hurricane Harvey) near the Texas/Louisiana border.

"Much progress continues to be made as over 70 Mississippi Baptist volunteers worked there through [last] weekend," Gann said.

In addition, nearly 70 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD) volunteers have begun arriving in Puerto Rico to aid in recovery efforts from Hurricane Maria's flattening of the island, a U.S. possession

Sam Porter, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) national director for disaster relief, reached Puerto Rico on Oct. 8 to further develop plans for serving those affected by Hurricane Maria.

Teams from North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia will be joined by individuals and smaller groups from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, New York, and Vermont. Conditions for the volunteers will be rough, and they will be prepared to serve whatever needs await them.

Mississippi Baptist volunteers do not yet have an assignment in Puerto Rico, Gann said.

In San Juan, 70% of the city is without cell service and outside the city cell service is even more scarce. Only around five percent of Puerto Rico has electricity. In these early stages, Southern Baptists who serve in Puerto Rico will be trained disaster relief volunteers.

In the long-term, NAMB will, through Send Relief, facilitate partnerships between mainland Southern Baptist churches and churches in Puerto Rico. The goal is to help SBC churches in Puerto Rico become hubs of relief ministry in their communities so they can bring the Gospel to their communities.



**MUCH TO BE DONE** — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief leaders are now in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and more, are on the way to set up a strategic, long-term plan for bringing aid to the people there. (BP photo)

"I will be on the island this week to help determine ways that Send Relief can involve untrained volunteers in Puerto Rico," said David Melber, vice president of Send Relief. "We want to open up every lane possible to send Southern Baptists as well as others into the field to help in Puerto Rico's time of dire need."

In the Virgin Islands, the Alabama disaster relief kitchen

that had been set to arrive is still in Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., awaiting shipment. SBD has been told that the kitchen will be shipped to arrive as soon as possible.

Southern Baptist leaders from Alabama and Florida have been working in the Virgin Islands to put their disaster relief plan into action despite the setbacks.

This hurricane season has been stretching Southern Baptists

resources and volunteers thin, but Sam Porter expressed confidence in SBD teams.

"Our SBD teams are pretty deep on the bench," Porter said. "When others are down and cannot go anymore, someone is able and willing to step up and say, 'Put me in coach.'"

Meanwhile Southern Baptist responses to Hurricanes Irma and Harvey continue. As of Oct. 5, SBD has seen nearly 400 professions of faith in the weeks since volunteers moved in to serve those affected by Harvey, then Irma. Southern Baptists have served nearly 2.5 million meals and completed more than 48,000 clean-up and recovery related jobs.

Despite the progress, volunteers are still needed in Texas and Florida. Texas in particular still has plenty of flood recovery jobs to be done. NAMB, through Send Relief, has been facilitating church-to-church partnerships and connecting volunteers with service opportunities.

Individuals and churches that feel called to work in the Texas relief effort as it moves forward, the best way to get started is to make contact by email: [msdisasterrelief@mbcb.org](mailto:msdisasterrelief@mbcb.org), with dates preferred, team size, and male/female count.

## MS POSITIONS

**FULL TIME PASTOR NEEDED.** Send resume to First Baptist Church of Beaumont, Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 416, Beaumont, MS 39423.

**DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR.** Please email resume to [drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com) or U.S. mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

**OAK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN NORTH MERIDIAN SEEKS PART-TIME NURSERY WORKER.** Work on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and special occasions. References and background check required. Send information to Church, P.O. Box 3938, Meridian, MS 39303.

**EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH IN PEARL, MS IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send resumes to: Eastside Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 3464 Patterson Drive, Pearl, MS 39208.

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY, MS, IN THE CLARKDALE COMMUNITY, IS AN ACTIVELY GROWING CHURCH.** We are prayerfully seeking to fill a new full time staff position of Associate Pastor of Education and Families. Those who are passionate for God and passionate about developing and ministering to church families, please email a resume to [nhcassocpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:nhcassocpastorsearch@gmail.com).

## CLASSIFIEDS

**NEW CHAPEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WEST MONROE, LA SEEKING FULL TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER.** Send resumes to [melinda@nchbc.net](mailto:melinda@nchbc.net).

**SEEKING FULL-TIME YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER.** Send resumes to [melinda@nchbc.net](mailto:melinda@nchbc.net). New Chapel Hill Baptist Church, West Monroe, LA 71291.

**LEVY CHURCH, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR SEEKS A WORSHIP PASTOR.** Resumes/inquiries may be sent to: [stevener@levybaptist.com](mailto:stevener@levybaptist.com)

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**WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM.** Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

**PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE:** Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or [bennyhorne@bny.com](mailto:bennyhorne@bny.com)

# Scared of using social media? LifeWay Social has an answer

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — LifeWay Christian Resources has launched an online coaching service to help Christians manage social media and other digital platforms from a biblical perspective.

This subscription-based service, known as LifeWay Social, is designed for churches, nonprofits, and individuals who want to discover more effective ways of using social media to grow God's kingdom. Registration opens Oct. 23.

Chris Martin, author development specialist for LifeWay, sees social media as more than just a means to accumulate clicks, new followers, and sales. Martin believes digital platforms are tools Christians can use to serve the church.

"Some Christians have gifts of writing, speaking, or similar abilities that translate well into social media, blogs, podcasts, and other digital avenues," Martin said. "LifeWay Social isn't primarily about building an e-mail list or getting a book on a best seller list. Our goal is foremost to help believers use their gifts for the service of others and, ultimately, the Kingdom."

People who are interested in joining LifeWay Social can sign up for a three-month or yearly membership offered at three tier levels. The basic tier will offer exclusive blog content and access to a private Facebook group. It will also provide weekly e-mails containing digital strategy tips, timely content ideas, and information on social media platform changes.

Higher tiers will involve one-on-one coaching, monthly video calls, and website evaluations.

"LifeWay Social will be invaluable for those looking to use their gifts to make a Kingdom impact online," said Jonathan Howe, LifeWay's director of strategic initiatives. "With the pace of change in social media, it's extremely helpful to have a guide to the most effective platforms and tools."

## LifeWay SOCIAL

LifeWay Social will also help Christian communicators understand the holistic nature of managing digital platforms. Martin compares this to overseeing a restaurant in which a website is the building, the content is the food, and the content delivery method (such as an e-mail distribution list) is the staff.

"Someone may be creating great content, but if the roof of their website is falling in, the guests aren't going to come back," Martin said, "or if their food is great but the waiters keep fumbling it on the way to the table, it doesn't matter."

LifeWay Social will coach users on how to excel in each aspect of social media management, so audiences will have a great experience and keep coming back, Martin said.

He also hopes to dispel the false perceptions Christians may bring to social media. "Some people see social media as self-promotional and sinful, so they avoid it altogether. Other people love social media but only use it to talk about how great their books or speaking engagements are."

"We want to help Christians find the balance so they can steward an online presence to serve others. That's why LifeWay Social exists."

For more information on LifeWay Social, visit [LifewaySocial.com](http://LifewaySocial.com). Follow on Twitter and Facebook: @LifeWaySocial.

# Judge rules ministerial housing allowance as unconstitutional

**MADISON, Wisc. (BP)**—For the second time, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb in Madison, Wisconsin, has ruled the U.S. tax code's ministerial housing allowance is unconstitutional.

Codified as part of a 1954 law, the ministerial housing allowance permits "ministers of the Gospel" to exclude for federal income tax purposes a portion or all of their gross income as a housing allowance.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has interpreted the law broadly to include religious workers of various faiths as "ministers of the Gospel." The benefit saves ministers an estimated \$800 million annually, according to Christianity Today.

In 2013, Crabb similarly ruled the ministerial housing allowance unconstitutional but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago overturned her decision, ruling the plaintiffs — the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) — lacked standing to sue.

The FFRF is a plaintiff once again in the current lawsuit, arguing the IRS has violated

The housing allowance, far from being a government endorsement of religion, as Judge Crabb contends, actually removes government from the equation."

**O.S. Hawkins**

**president of GuideStone Financial Resources**

the U.S. Constitution by refusing to permit the group's leaders to claim the ministerial housing allowance. This time, Crabb ruled in her 47-page opinion that FFRF and its leaders have satisfied the appeals court's requirements to attain legal standing.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty in Washington D.C., a conservative nonprofit legal group that represents some defendants in the case, argues Crabb's ruling is in error.

O.S. Hawkins, president of Southern Baptists' GuideStone

Financial Resources in Dallas, agreed. "The housing allowance, far from being a government endorsement of religion, as Judge Crabb contends, actually removes government from the equation."

"Were it not for the housing allowance, the government would be imposing a tax on religious employers and their employees that is not imposed on non-religious employers."

Hawkins said GuideStone will be filing a friend of the court brief supporting the ministerial housing allowance, at the appropriate time.

GuideStone advises ministers to consult GuideStone's annual tax guide, available at [GuideStone.org/taxguide](http://GuideStone.org/taxguide), and its housing allowance information, available at [GuideStone.org/housingallowance](http://GuideStone.org/housingallowance).

Crabb, an appointee of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, ruled in 2010 that the National Day of Prayer was unconstitutional. The National Day of Prayer went on as planned and the Seventh Circuit eventually overturned that ruling, too.

## Revivals & Homecomings

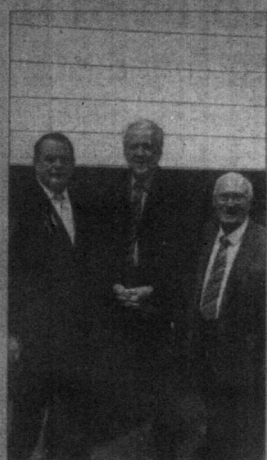
► **New Providence Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Oct. 15; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish meal.

► **First Church, Oloh:** Homecoming, Oct. 15; service, 10 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Scott Smith, speaker; Robert Brewer, music; Andy Baker, pastor.

► **Mount Vernon Church, Hero Community, Newton County:** 175th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 15; service followed by potluck meal; Gerald Hodges, speaker; Mike Rasberry, pastor.

► **Jayess Church, Jayess:** 108th homecoming, Oct. 15; service, 10 a.m.; Michael Knippers, speaker; Crossroads, special music.

► **First Church, Clara:** Homecoming, Oct. 15; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Dwight L. Smith, speaker; Bruce Smith, music; Richard A. Bradley, pastor.



**FIRST CHURCH, GAUTIER,** celebrated 75 years of ministry Sept. 22-23. Events included a banquet and a special worship service with note burning. Shown is the current and two former pastors: David Aultman, John Brock, and Billy Williams.

### Preschool Care for Convention

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, October 30, noon - November 1, 2017. Please contact Bonnie Snellgrove, Childcare Coordinator, at 601-949-1997 or [Bsnellgrove@fbcj.org](mailto:Bsnellgrove@fbcj.org) to pre-register. All children

must be pre-registered by Monday, October 23, 2017.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street.

Following are the procedures:

1. Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church.
2. Pick up a security card for each child on arrival.
3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.

4. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.

5. Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday if parents provide a sack lunch.

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail addresses below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise, include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)  
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## Equipped • Exodus 25:1-9; 31:1-6

The Mississippi Craft Center has been headquartered in Ridgeland since 2007. Visitors are welcomed daily to the 20,000 square foot building which features a museum, education center, a community gathering place and a retail gallery. But it didn't just happen. Years ago Governor William Waller concluded that talented individual's craft work would benefit the state's economy. Therefore, in 1973, he appointed Dan Overly as the first executive director to what is now known as the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. The Guild is composed of over 350 artisans whose craftsmanship is displayed through pottery, baskets, jewelry, wood and other artistic expressions (<http://craftsmensguildofms.org/about-us-2/history/>). Craftsmen have existed since the creation of time and in today's lesson, we will learn about two men who had been gifted to fulfill God's elaborate design for His Tabernacle.

Any artistry project takes materials. It takes money to purchase the supplies needed or it takes time to collect the materials from nature. Here in the first six verses of Exodus 25, the LORD reveals his plan for gathering everything needed to complete the tabernacle, as well as the Ark of the Covenant, The Table for Bread, and the Golden Lampstand. Let's take a look at two important phrases that mark this passage.

Moses has been called back up to the mountain. Here God reveals His divine pattern for the tabernacle. It begins with an offering. Read verse two, "That they take for me a contribution from every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me" (ESV, italics added for emphasis). A specific amount was not given as to what they were to give, such as a tenth, this would be compulsory giving. The contribution or offering was to be given freely; however the heart was moved to give. Individuals were to give according to their ability. The

Apostle Paul describes this willful, joyful giving in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (NKJV)."

The next four verses are very specific regarding unique and valuable items which were needed: "gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen,

goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goat-skins, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting . . ." It is very probable these items were brought out of Egypt with the people of Israel (Ex. 3:21-22; 12:36).

But what was the precise purpose for the offering of only these particular items? "And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their

midst (v. 8)." The sanctuary was the 'holy place' where God would dwell among His people and His presence would engulf every

square inch. Today we do not need a Tabernacle because our body is the temple where the Holy Spirit resides (1 Cor. 6:19). His presence is always with us!

The people were to follow the pattern 'exactly' for The Ark of the Covenant (25:10-22; The Table for Bread (25:23-30); The Golden Lampstand (25:31-40); The Tabernacle (26:1-37); The Bronze Altar (27:1-8); The Court

of the Tabernacle (27:9-19); Oil for the Lamp (27:20-21); The Priests Garments (28:1-43); Consecration of the Priests (29:1-46); The Altar of Incense (30:1-10); The Census Tax (30:11-16); The Bronze Basin (30:17-21); and The Anointing Oil & Incense (30:22-36).

Moses, through divine revelation, received the instructions. Now it was time to see them implemented. Two men were called to be The Master's Craftsmen, they were Bezalel, from the tribe of Judah. Exodus 31:3, tells us "God filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs . . ." (ESV). Then Oholiab, from the tribe of Dan, was appointed to work with him. Then in verse six, "And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you. . . ." God had called and equipped Bezalel and Oholiab with everything they needed to lead the construction of the tabernacle and the articles contained within. Through their leadership, all able men would use their abilities to bring Him honor and glory.

According to God's pattern, every person is unique, gifted and equipped for His glory!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Explore the Bible  
with Laura Leathers

## Caleb: Unwavering Faith • Numbers 13:26-30; 14:6-10, 21-24

Our lesson title celebrates Caleb's unwavering faith but is that justified? We know that Caleb was the leader of the tribe of Judah. Faith should have been the natural result of what he had experienced. God had lead Caleb's tribe and all the other people of Israel out of the slavery of Pharaoh. Caleb had seen God pass over the first born of Israel and kill the first born of the Egyptians, including the Pharaoh's son. He had seen God open the Red Sea and let his people cross its bed on dry land. God had protected Caleb, his family, and all of his people from the Egyptian army, chariots, horses, and all.

With this background, one might expect faith in God would be both natural and even easy. But that would be a misunderstanding of faith in times of real testing. All twelve of the spies that Moses sent into the Promised Land had the same background experience that Caleb had but only one other spy came with the same optimistic report as Caleb. That was Joshua, son of Nun, from the tribe of Ephraim. The other 10 spies did not believe God was capable of keeping His promise to give them the land that He had promised them.

All twelve spies saw the same things in the Promised Land. "They reported to Moses: 'We went into the land where

you sent us. Indeed it is flowing with milk and honey and here is some of its fruit,' Numbers 13:27 (CSB). They reference the fruit they brought back because Moses had given this assignment to them: "And see what the land is, . . . whether it is fat or lean, whether there is timber on it, or not. And be of good courage, and bring some of the fruit of the land," Numbers 13:18-20 (AMP). Here is what Moses wrote about the fruit they returned with, "And they came to the valley of Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two [of them]; they brought also some pomegranates and figs. That place was called the Valley of Eshcol [cluster], because of the cluster which the Israelites cut down there," Numbers 13:23-24 (AMP). The grape cluster was so impressive they named the whole valley after it.

Ten of the spies missed a major emphasis of Moses' assignment.

Verse 20 had included this, "And be of good courage." The fantastic cluster of grapes was to encourage the 12 leaders giving the report and to be an encouragement for the people of Israel. All of the spies, except Caleb and Joshua, failed miserably as leaders because they failed to lead with faith and courage. Caleb did in fact demonstrate "Unwavering Faith" and courage.

Caleb realized the whole report was going away from God's leadership. "Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, 'let's go up now and take

possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!'" Numbers 13:30 (CSB). "Joshua . . . and Caleb . . . tore their clothes and said . . ." The land we passed through and explored is an extremely good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land," Numbers 14:6-8 (CSB). Caleb emphatically warned his nation, "Only don't rebel against the

Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land," Numbers 14:9 (CSB). Caleb's plea to live courageously and not rebel against God brought on a cowardly attack by thousands against two Godly men, Caleb and Joshua: "The whole community threatened to stone them," But God removed the threat to Joshua and Caleb - "the glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting," Numbers 14:10 (CSB).

Then the Lord announced His verdict: "Yet as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the Lord's glory, none of the men who have seen my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, . . . will ever see the land I swore to give their fathers. . . . But since my servant Caleb has . . . remained loyal to me, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it," Numbers 14:21-24 (CSB).

45 years later "Joshua blessed Caleb . . . and gave him Hebron as an inheritance. Therefore, Hebron still belongs to Caleb . . . because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, completely," Joshua 14:13-14 (CSB).

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.



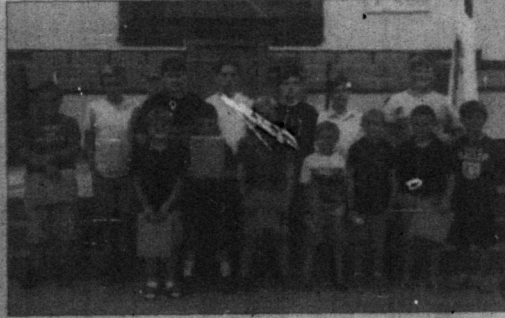
Bible Studies for Life  
with Don Hicks



## Just for the Record



The RA's and GA's of **FIRST CHURCH, CHICORA**, had their recognition service Sept. 6. The GA's had a badge recognition service and the RA's received certificates for completing several missions. Mitchell Smith, pastor.



**O'ZION CHURCH, MEADVILLE**, recently ordained Bobby Murray and Pat O'Quinn as deacons. Shown are pastor Glenn Bird, Murray, Linda Murray, Pansy O'Quinn, Pat O'Quinn, and Emory May.



**MCCARLEY CHURCH, CARROLL-MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION**, honored their pastor Rupert Ingram and his wife Anne Sept. 6 with a surprise trip to the Holy Land on the occasion of his 15-year anniversary as pastor. They are shown with church members making the presentation.



**NEW HOPE CHURCH, WALNUT GROVE**, held a baby dedication Oct. 1. Shown are Amber, Ava Grace, Jonathan and Delilah Jean Edwards (baby) and pastor Michael Harper.



**BETHEL CHURCH, COPIAH COUNTY**, recently honored their pastor's wife. Shown with Ashley Windom are members of the WMU and prospective members. Tyson Windom, pastor.



**RED BANKS CHURCH, RED BANKS**, ordained Brooks Brownlee to the ministry Oct. 1. Shown with Brownlee is his wife Cristy and children Isabella and Ben.



Wad Baxter, right, received his license to preach from David Eldridge at **FIRST CHURCH, CLINTON**. Baxter is a 3rd year student at Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.



**SALEM CHURCH, KEWANEE**, held a celebration service Sept. 3 honoring pastor Lamar Lifer's 60th anniversary of pulpit ministry.

### In other Church News:

- **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, will host Calm Assurance in concert Oct. 15, 6 p.m.
- **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg**, will host David Richardson in concert Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING  
*Heritage and Hope*

**150**  
YEARS

Sunday  
October 22, 2017 10:30 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DURANT, MS

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017.  
WE ARE CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.  
REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 9 O'CLOCK A.M.  
SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A.M.

A FELLOWSHIP MEAL WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.